

**George Mason to George Washington, August 21, 1755,  
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.  
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**FROM COLONEL GEORGE MASON.**

DOGUES NECK Aug. 21st. 1755.

DR SIR.

I fully intended to have waited on You this Evening at Belvoir, but find myself so very unwell after my Ride from Court, that I am not able to stir abroad —

I have taken the Liberty to inclose You two Bills for £300, Ster: drawn by Mr. paymaster Genl. Johnston on Colo. Hunter, & an ordr. on Gover. Dobbs from his Son for £18..15. —Ster: also a Letter for Colo. Hunter, & another for his Honr. our Govr. If Colo. Hunter shou'd be in Town whilst You stay there, I shou'd esteem it a particular Favour if you 'll be so kind to negotiate the Affair wth. Him: it is indifferent to Me whether He pays Cash or Bills, pble in London, at the prevailing Exchange at the time: 't is probable it may suit Him to take up the ordr. on Govr. Dobbs. If you shou'd not see Colo. Hunter, please to leave the Bills wth. Govr.. Dinwiddie —

I beg You 'll excuse the Trouble I have taken the Liberty to give You on this Occasion. & give Me Leave to assure You that nothing wou'd give Me more sensible pleasure than an Opportunity of rendering You any acceptable Service.

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I heartily wish You Health & every Felicity, & that You may find the new Regulations in our Military Affairs agreeable to Yr Wishes, & such as will enable you to accept the Command of our Troops with Honour<sup>1</sup> —

I am wth. my compl. to all at Belvoir Dr Sir Yr. most Obedt. Hble Sert. G. MASON

<sup>1</sup> A few days after the defeat of Braddock, Washington returned quietly to Mount Vernon, arriving there on July 26. On the 14th of August he writes to his mother, "If it is in my power to avoid going to the Ohio again, I shall; but if the command is pressed upon me, by the general voice of the country, and offered upon such terms as cannot be objected against, it would reflect dishonor upon me to refuse it; and that, I am sure, must or ought to give you greater uneasiness, than my going in an honorable command. Upon no other terms will I accept of it. At present I have no proposals made to me, nor have I any advice of such an intention, except from private hands." His commission as commander-in-chief of the Virginia forces dates from the same day.